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1972/11/09

SITUATION: PARIS TALKS
SUBJECT CATAGORY: DRV

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:
IMMEDIATE / PRIORITY
FJK528
O P 091722Z NOV 72
FM USDEL FRANCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6402 AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE 1093

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 4804
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 4330 AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY 1468
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 4137 AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 5820
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY 6700 CINCPAC
COMUSMACV ZNN/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
ZNN/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FRANCE 21467
CINCPAC FOR POLAD
SUBJ: PARIS MEETINGS ON VIET-NAM: SUMMARY OF PRG PRESS BRIEFING BY LY VAN SAU, NOVEMBER 9, 1972
1. IN OPENING REMARKS SAU CRITICIZED US FOR NOT SIGNING DRAFT AGREEMENT AND ALLEGED THAT CURRENT US ACTIONS, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR STEPPED-UP SUPPLY OF ARMS TO "THIEU ADMINISTRATION," INDICATED US WANTED TO CONTINUE AND INTENSIFY WAR AND SABOTAGE PEACE. SAU ACCUSED THIEU ADMINISTRATION OF BLOCKING PEACE AND OPPRESSING PEOPLE AS DEMONSTRATED BY POLICE ACTIVITY AND CONSTRUCTION OF MORE CONCENTRATION CAMPS.
2. QUESTIONED ABOUT INFLUENCE OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S REELECTION ON PROSPECTS FOR PEACE, SAU SAID IMPORTANT QUESTION WAS NOT PERSON IN WHITE HOUSE BUT HIS POLICY AND WENT ON TO ASSAIL "NIXON ADMINISTRATION" FOR ALLEGEDLY INTENSIFYING AND PROLONGING WAR WHILE TALKING OF PEACE. SAU URGED SIGNATURE OF DRAFT AGREEMENT, WHICH REPRESENTED MAXIMUM GOODWILL AND EFFORT OF HIS SIDE, AND ASSERTED THAT IF IT WERE NOT SIGNED VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WOULD CONTINUE TO FIGHT.

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3. ASKED IF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES SPECIFIED BY MADAME BINH TODAY WERE INCLUDED IN DRAFT AGREEMENT SAU SAID "IN A GENERAL SAY" THEY WERE. SAU EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF THESE LIBERTIES, CLAIMING THEY WERE WHAT VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WERE FIGHTING FOR AND WHAT "SAIGON ADMINISTRATION" WAS SEEKING TO STAMP OUT. IN PARTICULAR, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND RESIDENCE WAS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT AND WHEN PEACE HAD BEEN REESTABLISHED VIETNAMESE PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE RIGHT TO TRAVEL AND LIVE ANYWHERE THEY PLEASE.
4. SAU REJECTED NLF-GVN TALKS PRIOR TO SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT BUT SAID SUCH TALKS COULD BEGIN IN PARIS ONE HOUR AFTER SIGNATURE IF SAIGON WOULD AGREE. ASKED HOW MADAME BINH'S CALL FOR RESIGNATION OF THIEU SQUARED WITH TERMS OF DRAFT AGREEMENT, SAU ASSERTED THAT THIEU OPPOSED PEACE AND HENCE MUST BE REMOVED TO ACHIEVE PEACE. UNDER QUESTIONING SAU WAS FINALLY FORCED TO ADMIT THAT IF AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED PRG WOULD IN FACT HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH SAIGON GOVERNMENT HEADED BY THIEU.
5. SAU ALLEGED THAT AMB. PORTER'S STATEMENT ABOUT SUPPLY EFFORTS BY BOTH SIDES WAS ONLY A PRETEXT FOR CONTINUED US BOMBING.
6. ASKED IF CEASE-FIRE UNDER DRAFT AGREEMENT WOULD BE IN PLACE OR WITH REGROUPING, SAU SAID CEASE-FIRE WOULD BE IN PLACE AND ONLY US AND KOREAN TROOPS WOULD BE REGROUPED PENDING DEPARTURE, WHILE QUESTION OF VIETNAMESE FORCES IN SVN WOULD BE SETTLED BY TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES. GDS.
PORTER

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